

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants	Timothy Graham Frank, <i>et al.</i>
Serial No. 10/	Filing Date: May 19, 2004
Title of Application:	Medical Instrument

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 Post Office Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Preliminary Amendment**

Applicants herewith present its amendment and remarks. Please amend the claims and abstract as detailed below.

**In the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument, in particular an endoscopic instrument, with an instrument shaft (4), a tool (2) positioned on the distal end of the instrument shaft (4), and a handle (3), which can be secured for storage on the instrument shaft (4) by means of a coupling element (4) in an axial extension of the instrument shaft (4), wherein the handle (3) can be secured on the instrument shaft (4) so that it can be moved by at least three degrees of freedom with respect to the instrument shaft (4).

2. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument as in claim 1, wherein the coupling element (4) is configured as a component that at least partially surrounds the instrument shaft (4) and can be clamped together with the instrument shaft (4).

3. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument as in claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the distal end of the handle (3) is configured as a tensioning device (7) to receive the coupling element (4).

4. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument as in claim 3, wherein a pressure force can be exerted on the coupling element (4) by the tensioning device (7) in such